



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bill Protecting Victims of Harassment Heads to Senate Floor

Madison, WI... Today, the Wisconsin Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously passed a bill authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) and Representative Adam Neylon (*R-Pewaukee*) that puts measures into place to protect victims against stalking and harassment.

“As tracking technology becomes easier to obtain, it is important to protect the privacy of our citizens,” said Senator Petrowski. “This bill helps to empower victims of stalking by providing a way to pursue action against their aggressors.”

The bill establishes a penalty for an individual who places a GPS device on another person’s vehicle or uses a GPS device to gain information about the person’s movements without consent. It has already unanimously passed the State Assembly and received the enthusiastic support of both the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the ACLU.

“There is no reason someone without an ownership interest in a vehicle should be allowed to place a GPS device on that vehicle,” said Representative Neylon. “That’s stalking, and with the support of the State Senate and Governor Walker, it will become illegal in Wisconsin.”

The bill contains an exception for law enforcement officers executing a warrant, ensuring that the bill will not constrain police acting in their official capacity. There are also exemptions for parents and guardians of minors, as well as employers or lienholders tracking vehicles that they own.

The bill will now head to the Senate floor for consideration.

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